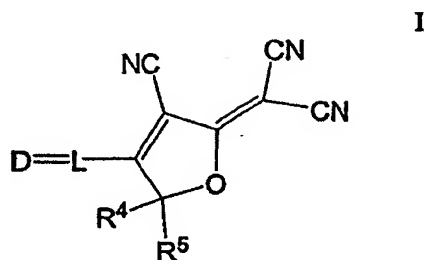


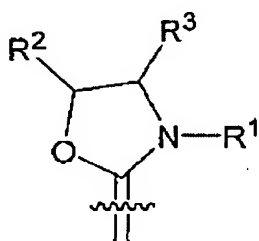
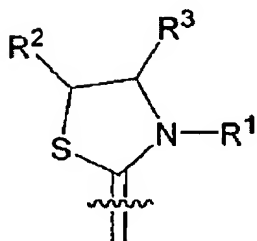
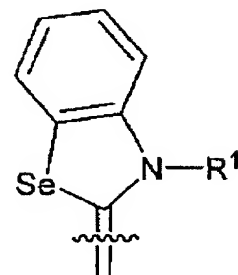
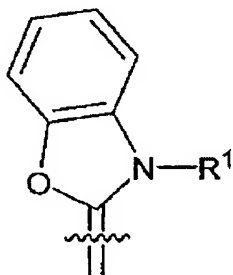
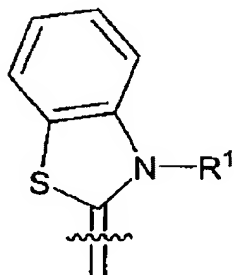
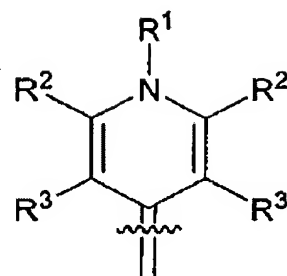
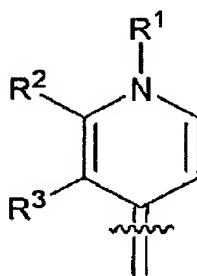
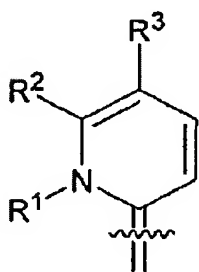
Amendments to the Claims:

Claim 1 (Original): A compound of the general Formula I:

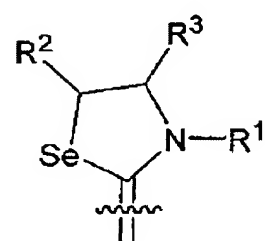


wherein:

D is selected from the group comprising:

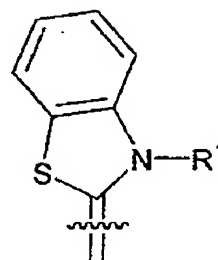
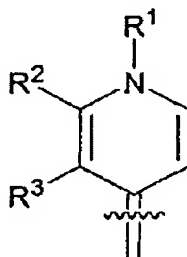
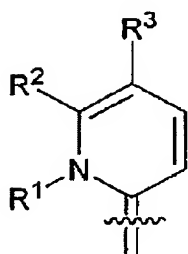
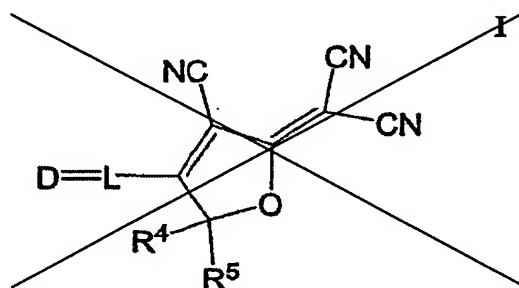


and



and wherein:

R⁴ and R⁵ are independently alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or *p*-C₆H₄-OAc.



R⁴ and R⁵ are independently alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or *p*-C₆H₄-OAc.

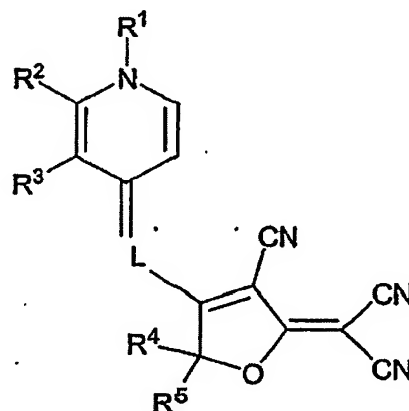
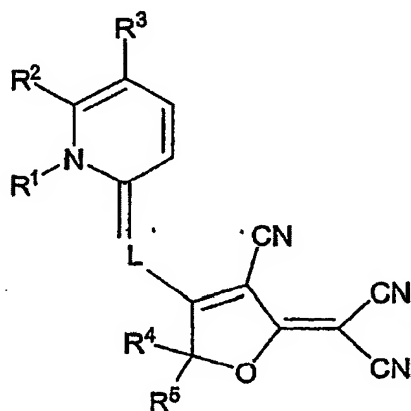
Claim 3 (Currently Amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~ wherein L is an optionally substituted chain of 3 or 5 carbon atoms which, together with the double bond linking D to L forms a conjugated polyenic chain.

Claim 4 (Original): A compound of claim 3 wherein R¹ is dihydroxyalkyl.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): A compound of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein R² and R³ together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 6-membered aromatic ring.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): A compound of ~~any preceding~~ claim 1 wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are independently alkyl or hydroxyalkyl.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A compound of claim 1 ~~according to formula I~~, represented by



wherein:

R¹ is CH₃, CH₂CH₂OH, CH₂CH(OH)CH₂OH or alkyl chain of up to 30 carbon atoms;

R² and R³ are H, or together with the carbon atoms to which they are attached form a 6-membered aromatic ring;

one of R⁴ or R⁵ is hydroxyalkyl; and

L is an optionally substituted chain of 5 carbon atoms which, together with the double bond linking D to L forms a conjugated polyenic chain.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A compound of claim 7 wherein R_1 is dihydroxyalkyl.

Claim 9 (Original): A compound selected from the group comprising:

[4{2-(*N*-Methylpyridin-4(1*H*)-ylidene)ethenyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene]propanedinitrile;

[4{4-(*N*-Methylpyridin-4(1*H*)-ylidene)-1,3-butadienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene]propanedinitrile;

[4{6-(*N*-Methylpyridin-4(1*H*)-ylidene)-1,3,5-hexatrienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene]propanedinitrile;

'{4{2-[*N*-(2,3-Dihydroxypropyl)pyridine-4(1*H*)-ylidene]ethenyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{4-[(2,3-Dihydroxypropyl)pyridin-4(1*H*)-ylidene]-1,3-butadienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

[4{2-(*N*-Methylpyridin-2(1*H*)-ylidene)ethenyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene]propanedinitrile;

[4{4-(*N*-Methylpyridin-2(1*H*)-ylidene)-1,3-butadienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene]propanedinitrile;

[4{6-(*N*-Methylpyridin-2(1*H*)-ylidene)-1,3,5-hexatrienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene]propanedinitrile;

'{4{2-[*N*-(2,3-Dihydroxypropyl)pyridin-2(1*H*)-ylidene]ethenyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{4-[*N*-(2,3-Dihydroxypropyl)pyridin-2(1*H*)-ylidene]-1,3-butadienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{2-[*N*-(2-Hydroxyethyl)quinolin-4(1*H*)-ylidene]ethenyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{4-[*N*-(2-Hydroxyethyl)quinolin-4(1*H*)-ylidene]-1,3-butadienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{6-[*N*-(2-Hydroxyethyl)quinolin-4(1*H*)-ylidene]-1,3,5-hexatrienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5*H*)-furanylidene}'

propanedinitrile;

'{4-{2-{3-{2-[N-(2-Hydroxyethyl)quinolin-4(1H)-ylidene]-ethylidene}-2-chloro-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}'-E-ethenyl}"-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{2-[N-Methylquinolin-2(1H)-ylidene]ethenyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{4-[N-Methylquinolin-2(1H)-ylidene]-1,3-butadienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4{6-[N-Methylquinolin-2(1H)-ylidene]-1,3,5-hexatrienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4-{2-[N-(2-hydroxyethyl)benzothiazol-2(3H)-ylidene]-ethenyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4-{4-[N-(2-hydroxyethyl)benzothiazol-2(3H)-ylidene]-1,3-butadienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

'{4-{6-[N-(2-hydroxyethyl)benzothiazol-2(3H)-ylidene]-1,3,5-hexatrienyl}-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile;

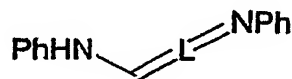
'{4-{4-[N-(2-hydroxyethyl)benzothiazol-2(3H)-ylidene]-1,3-butadienyl}-5-(4-acetoxy-phenyl)-3-cyano-5-methyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile; and

'{4-{2-{3-{2-[N-(2-hydroxyethyl)benzothiazol-2(3H)-ylidene]-ethylidene}-2-chloro-1-cyclohexen-1-yl}'-E-ethenyl}"-3-cyano-5,5-dimethyl-2(5H)-furanylidene}'propanedinitrile.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a compound of Formula I as defined in claim 1 comprising:

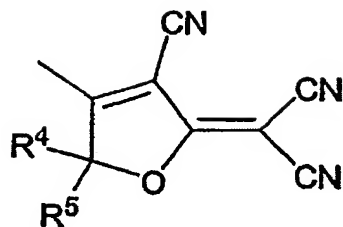
(a) reacting a compound of Formula II:

II



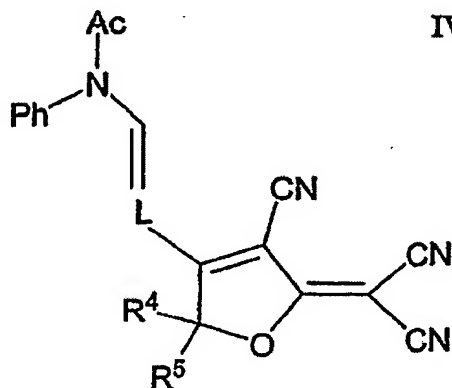
wherein L is defined in claim 1, with a compound of Formula III:

III

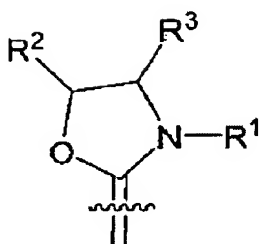
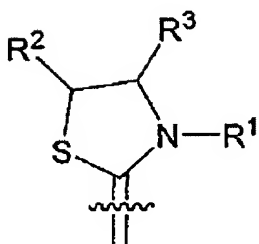
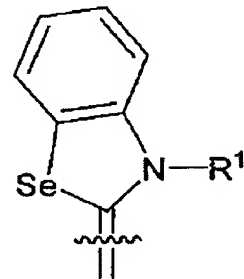
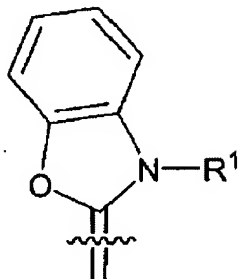
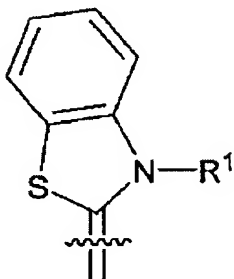
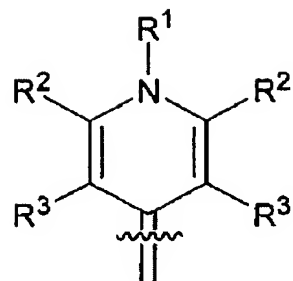
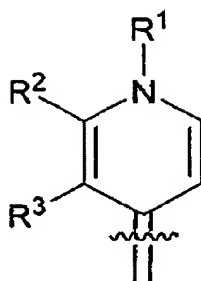
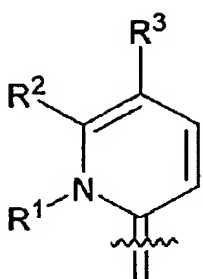


wherein R⁴ and R⁵ are as defined in claim 1, to form a compound of Formula IV:

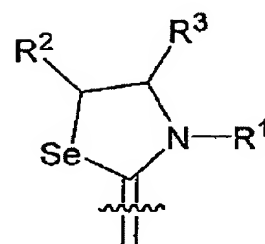
IV



(b) reacting the compound of Formula IV from step (a) with a donor compound to form a compound of Formula I, wherein the donor compound bears a donor group selected from the group comprising:



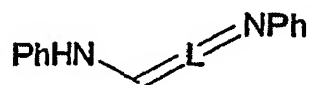
and



Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A method of claim 10 ~~preparing a compound of Formula I~~ comprising:

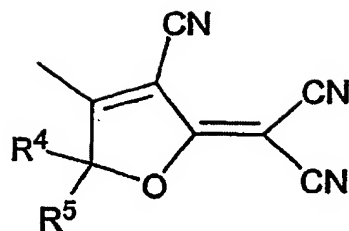
(a) reacting a compound of Formula II:

II



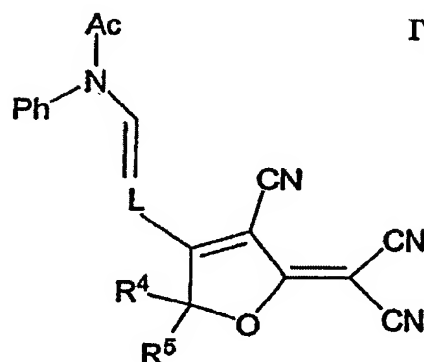
wherein L is defined in claim 1, with a compound of Formula III:

III

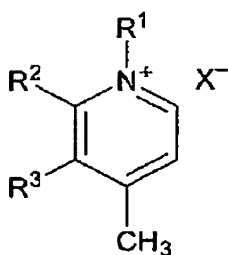


wherein R^4 and R^5 are as defined in claim 1, to form a compound of Formula IV:

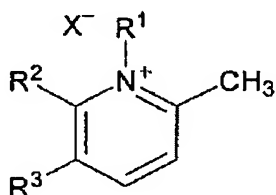
IV



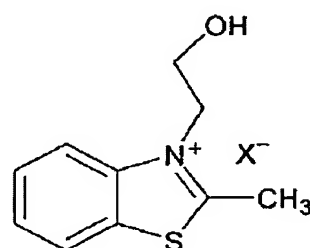
(b) reacting the compound of Formula IV from step (a) with an azinium or azolium donor derivative of Formula V, VI, or VII, where X is halogen and R^1 , R^2 , R^3 are defined in claim 1, to form a compound of Formula I-, wherein:



V



VI



VII

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): A composite material prepared from a polymerisation mixture comprising:

(e) (a) a compound of formula I of claim 1 or a derivative thereof; and

~~(d)~~ (b) at least a further polymerisable material.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): A composite material of claim ~~11~~ 12 comprising a modified polyurethane, polycarbonate, polyamic acid polyimide, or a mixture thereof, which includes substituents derived from a compound of formula I.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): An optoelectronic device comprising the composite material of claim 12 ~~or claim 13~~.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A method of data transmission comprising transmitting light through a composite material of claim 12 ~~or claim 13~~.

Claim 16 (New): A compound of claim 2 wherein L is an optionally substituted chain of 3 or 5 carbon atoms which, together with the double bond linking D to L forms a conjugated polyenic chain.

Claim 17 (New): A compound of claim 16 wherein R¹ is dihydroxyalkyl.